

2012 Parks Budget Community Conversations

Table 3 - Summary of Responses
Tuesday, May 3, 2011, Meadowbrook Community Center

Question: What does the parks system – including outdoor parks, community centers and other DPR offerings – mean to you? How do you use the park system?

Themes –

1. Parks as outdoors – natural areas as priority

- a. All segments of population served
- b. Recreation and exercise
- c. Hiking/walking/picnics
- d. Birding and wildlife activities
- e. Expensive city – parks are free, last affordable refuge for low income families
- f. Not heavy staffing (vs. community center programming)
- g. Parks stewards and volunteering opportunities for outside work and maintaining invasive plants
- h. Parks important to non-profits
- i. Urban parks critical to overall forestry management
- j. Parks key component of many community festivals
- k. Dog off-leash areas quite popular – even for non-dog owners so dogs aren't in parks
- l. Legacy for the future – fund to at least maintain current status
- m. Maintain access to the waterfront – so all of city is not private access
- n. Clean and safe for activities
- o. Fields are needed for outdoor sports
- p. Theater component important to parks heritage and legacy

2. Community centers programming

- a. Find balance between adult/children programming
- b. Adults classes oversold and youth cancelled due to not enough participation
- c. Teaching tools for children
- d. Safe and clean play space out of inclement weather
- e. Supports community through meeting space and after school programs
- f. Programming more vital in tough economy – can't afford other programs
- g. Neighborhood support – builds community/friends

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- h. Community gardens
- i. Urban swimming training access needed for safety

3. Where folks might be able to give/take on funding priorities

- a. Mowing and landscaping – basic maintenance but ensure safety
- b. Higher fees for outside jurisdictions' participants (i.e. residents that don't pay Seattle taxes signing up for baseball leagues in Seattle because it is cheaper)
- c. User based programming – adults programming gets marginalized in summer to make room for youth programming – when might be that adults pay more in fees
- d. Public/private/non-profit partnerships but not with commercial developers
- e. More enforcement/fines
- f. Partner with schools to join programming in communities
- g. User fees at picnic shelters
- h. Review salaries against skill set (not all full time up to par on parks knowledge and center facilitation)
- i. Manage field fee permits better (pay up front plan)